

64-2692

22 April 1964

Honorable Eugene M. Zuckert
Secretary of the Air Force
Washington, D. C.

Dear Gene:

Since becoming Director of Central Intelligence I have had an opportunity to observe at close range the work of Colonel Jack C. Ledford who, for the past several years, has been assigned to CIA by the Air Force. Colonel Ledford carried the laboring oar in the development [redacted]

[redacted] He has performed exceptionally well for both CIA and for the Air Force and has demonstrated to my complete satisfaction that he is an officer of unusual capabilities and therefore should be given most serious consideration for promotion to Brigadier General. In my opinion he is one of those rare individuals whom the Air Force should build up rapidly in its own future interest.

In a letter to General LeMay dated 26 August 1963, my Deputy, General Carter, stated, "Colonel Ledford [redacted] in the Central Intelligence Agency and is responsible for collection programs with which you are familiar. As a senior regular Air Force officer, Colonel Ledford is in a highly responsible position requiring the greatest objectivity totally devoid of parochialism. He has measured up to this unusual requirement in every respect and, because of this, has earned the admiration and respect of all of us here in the Agency as well as the key officials with whom he is associated in the Department of Defense. He has produced a truly remarkable performance under the most trying circumstances. His actual performance of duty is likewise outstanding."

You will note from my opening paragraph that I am completely in accord with General Carter's statement and I am anxious to add my unqualified endorsement of Colonel Ledford. While I am basically opposed to specialized treatment, I understand it is Air Force tradition to consider a few promotions in late Spring of each year. Knowing this, I feel I would be remiss in not bringing Colonel Ledford's name to yours and General LeMay's attention.

I am writing a similar endorsement to General LeMay.

Sincerely,

15/
John A. McCone
Director

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26 August 1963

General Curtis E. LeMay
Chief of Staff
United States Air Force
Washington, D. C.

Dear General LeMay:

As you know, I have had long and close personal contact with many senior Air Force officers, particularly in the grade of Colonel and higher, and especially during the three years I was Chief of Staff of CONAD and NORAD.

This is to let you know that of all the Air Force Colonels I have been associated with over the years, Colonel Jack C. Ledford is heads above the herd and, in my opinion, is running right at the top level of "Outstanding." I have just recently acted as endorsing officer to his current efficiency report but because of the fact that he works in the Central Intelligence Agency under my immediate supervision in a position requiring the utmost in diplomacy and delicacy of effort, I wanted you to know personally of my opinion of him.

Colonel Ledford is Director of the Office of Special Activities in the Central Intelligence Agency and is responsible for collection programs with which you are familiar. As a senior regular Air Force officer, Colonel Ledford is in a highly responsible position requiring the greatest objectivity totally devoid of parochialism. He has measured up to this unusual requirement in every respect and, because of this, has earned the admiration and respect of all of us here in the Agency as well as the key officials with whom he is associated in the Department of Defense. He has produced a truly remarkable performance under the most trying circumstances. His actual performance of duty is likewise outstanding.

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I want to make this a matter of personal record to you (and I am sending a copy to Bozo McKee) because I want to make sure that the intricacies of the tasks assigned to Ledford, and his very remarkable performance of duty in them, are given full credit in the Air Force promotion system. I strongly recommend Colonel Ledford without reservation for promotion to Brigadier General.

Faithfully yours,

/s/

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Director

Distribution:

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